

active member of the New Hampshire chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and was to be installed as the next DAV commander at the State convention in June.

Recently, Joe received letters of encouragement and appreciation from President George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson for his work within the veterans community.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Joe Ford's passing, but can be comforted by knowing he made a lasting impact through his life's work. I am honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and to our Nation today.

My thoughts are with Joe's wife, Lillian; his two children, Paul and Mary; and all those who knew Joe, especially those throughout the veterans community during this difficult time of bereavement.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m. today.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You speak to Your people through prophets and leaders as of old. Be with Your people now and guide the leaders of this government as You did in the days of Habakkuk, the prophet.

When the cry for help was raised, You did not seem to listen. When the shout of violence was heard in the streets, You seemed not to intervene. But then You, O Lord, answered and said through the prophet, "The vision still has its time. Press on to its fulfillment and it will not disappoint. The just man because of his faith shall live."

Help us never to lose vision which provides hope. The value of such faith does not depend on fulfillment of expectation, but gives power to transform the lives of the faithful, to wait, to work with faith both today and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SALUTING CITIZENS OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, Prince Edward County is marking the 250th anniversary of its founding on January 1, 1754, by act of the Virginia General Assembly. Prince Edward County played a vital role in the early days of the history of this Nation as an agricultural and major shipping distribution center.

Prince Edward County is the home to two premier institutions of higher learning, Hampden-Sydney College and Longwood University. Prince Edward County counts among its most honored natives two men who held governorships of other States, Henry Watkins Allen in Louisiana and Sterling Price in Missouri. Also, General Joseph E. Johnston of the Confederate Army is a native son as well as civil rights leader Dr. Vernon Johns; J. B. Fuqua, philanthropist; and the first African American United States Senator, Blanche K. Bruce; as well as Lieutenant General Sam V. Wilson, former president of Hampden-Sydney College.

Prince Edward County has also been called home by such noted persons as Virginia Governor Phillip McKinney; civil rights leader Reverend L. Francis Griffin; president of Tuskegee Institute, Robert Russa Moton; and medical researcher D. Walter Reed.

Prince Edward County also played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement of the 1950s as part of the Brown v. Board of Education suit.

In closing, I salute the citizens of Prince Edward County in recognition of their 250th anniversary.

KICKING THE RECOVERY INTO HIGH GEAR

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, during this final week before the spring break, the House will cap off a strong winter of work helping the American people grow the economy and create jobs. With positive economic news continuing to come in, we can be sure times are good, yet equally sure they are not perfect.

More Americans are working today than at any time in our history. Unemployment and interest rates remain low, the budget we passed last week is pointing the way toward fiscal accountability, and every day that passes brings us another day closer to victory in the war on terror.

But, Mr. Speaker, our manufacturing industry continues to feel the squeeze of outsourcing; and certain segments of the population have not yet come to fully enjoy the economic recovery evidenced in all this economic data. People are still hurting. But thankfully, more help will soon be on the way. This week the House will consider the long-awaited Federal highway reauthorization bill, which will set and deliver on the highway transportation investment priorities for the rest of the decade. It is estimated that every billion dollars spent on highways creates 47,500 jobs. The TEA-LU bill we will take up this week will authorize \$275 billion over the next 6 years.

This is a jobs bill, plain and simple. When a new highway is built, new neighborhoods follow, then businesses to serve those neighborhoods, and then businesses to serve those businesses. A highway does not just mean asphalt. It means families and car pools and schools and office parks and grocery stores and shopping malls. It means more new jobs, from waiters and convenience store clerks to doctors and stockbrokers. Added to the tax relief Congress passed in 2001 and 2003, the highway bill will further grow the American economy, creating jobs, expanding opportunity, and changing lives along the way.

Less than a week since we passed one of the strongest, most pro-growth budgets in history and less than a week before we receive March job creation numbers, now is the perfect time for us to move on the highway bill. It is time, Mr. Speaker, to help the American people kick our economic recovery into high gear.

WE HAVE REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL OF RICHARD CLARKE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)